

fire. The enemy now brought up a gun into the churchyard, which enfiladed the bridge at a distance not exceeding 150 yards, my own guns not being able to bear on their position.

The enemy were still increasing and working round to my rear by my left flank. I retired the guns about 100 yards, so as to command the bridge and the road leading from the town. Officers and men were at this time falling fast around me, I applied for a reinforcement, but by the time they arrived, night had set in, and I now considered it prudent to retire with the remainder of my force into the entrenchment, which was done with perfect regularity, the reinforcement of Rifles protecting the rear.

Although for some time earnestly advised to retire I refrained from doing so, until I felt convinced that, from the increasing numbers of the enemy, the fatigue of the men after three days' hard fighting, and my own troops firing in the dark into each other, the position was no longer tenable, and that consequently it became my painful duty to retire.

I beg to forward a return of the killed and wounded during the day.

Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing in the Force, under Brigadier Carthew, employed in defending the Bridge on the Bithoor road, 28th November 1857.

Staff	2 Captains wounded.
Madras Artillery C Company, 5th Battalion, Golundauze	} 1 havildar, 8 privates and 1 havildar gun Lascar, wounded.
Her Majesty's 34th Regiment	
Grenadier Company Her Majesty's 82d Regiment ...	} 2 rank and file, killed; 1 officer, 5 rank and file, wounded.

Abstract.

	Officers.	Serjeants.	Havildars.	Rank and File.	Havildar Gun Lascars.	Horses.
Killed	3	2	0	10	0	1
Wounded	10	1	1	63	1	0
Missing	0	0	0	1	0	0

N.B.—Killed and Wounded of light company, Her Majesty's 82d Regiment not included, that company having been taken on by Captain McCrea, and engaged in the right attack with Her Majesty's 64th Regiment.

I have, &c.,
 M. CARTHEW, Brigadier,
 Commanding Madras Troops.

No. 76.

Memorandum by the Chief of the Staff upon Brigadier Carthew's retreat from his post on the 28th November 1857.

Head-Quarters, Camp, Cawnpore,
 December 9, 1857.

THE Commander-in-Chief has had under consideration Brigadier Carthew's Despatch, dated Cawnpore, 3d December 1857, addressed to the Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, Cawnpore Division.

Although His Excellency fully admits the arduous nature of the service on which Brigadier Carthew had been engaged during the 28th November, he cannot record his approval of that officer's retreat on the evening of that day.

Under the instructions of Major-General Windham, his commanding officer, Brigadier Carthew had been placed in position. No discretion of retiring was allowed to him. When he was pressed hard, he sent for reinforcements, which, as the Commander-in-Chief happened to be present when the request arrived, His Excellency is aware were immediately conducted to his relief by Major-General Windham in person.

It would appear from Brigadier Carthew's letter of explanation, that he did not wait to see the effect of the reinforcements which had been brought to him; but to the great astonishment of Major-General Windham and His Excellency, retired almost immediately after.

With respect to these occurrences His Excellency feels it necessary to make two remarks:—

In the first place, no subordinate officer, when possessing easy means of communication with his immediate superior, is permitted, according to the principles and usages of war, to give up a post which has been entrusted to his charge, without a previous request for orders, after representation might have been made that the post had become no longer tenable.

It might have occurred to Brigadier Carthew that when Major-General Windham proceeded to reinforce the post according to his first request, instead of ordering the garrison to retire, it was the opinion of the Major-General that to hold it was an absolute necessity.

His Excellency refrains from remarking on the very serious consequences which ensued on the abandonment of the post in question.

The night, which had arrived, was more favourable to the Brigadier for the purpose of strengthening his position than it was to an enemy advancing on him in the dark; at all events there were many hours during which a decision could have been taken by the highest authority in the entrenchment whether the post should be abandoned or not, without much other inconvenience than the mere fatigue of the garrison.

The Commander-in-Chief must make one more remark.

Brigadier Carthew, in the last paragraph of his letter, talks about his men firing into one another in the dark. His Excellency does not see how this could occur if the men were properly posted, and the officers in command of them duly instructed as to their respective positions.